

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 03809 041658Z

47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 IO-10

SEC-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /104 W
----- 048049

R 041530Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6854

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LA PAZ 3809

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ENRG EIND BL

SUBJ: GULF OIL: RESPONSE TO ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER'S
NOTE

REF: STATE 121545

1. FIRST PERSON NOTE IN SPANISH CONVEYING TEXT IN REFTEL WAS
DELIVERED JUNE 3 PERSONALLY TO FOREIGN MINISTER GUZMAN.
MINISTER HAD BEEN IN COCHABAMBA FOR SEVERAL DAYS AS HOST FOR
FOREIGN MINISTERS OF CUENCA DE LA PLATA ORGANIZATION.
ORAL COMMENTS IN PARA 3 REFTEL WERE ALSO MADE TO FOREIGN
MINISTER. IN ADDITION, REMARKS WERE MADE TO THE FOREIGN
MINISTER ALONG THE LINES OF PARA 2 OF STATE 127952.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR NOTE AND
SAID THT TENSION ON GULF ISSUE HAD MARKEDLY DECREASED IN
RECENT DAYS. HE SAID PRESIDENT BANZER WAS LESS CONCERNED
THAN HE HAD BEEN BEFORE. MINISTER SAID THAT HE HAS ADOPTED
POSITION, WHICH HE HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING PRESIDENT AND GOB
TO FOLLOW, OF PATIENCE AND CALM IN DEALING WITH THIS MATTER.
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MINISTER PERSONALLY BELIEVES THAT WHEN INFORMATION MADE

AVAILABLE BY GULF DIRECTLY OR THROUGH MCCLOY COMMISSION
RELEASE, GOB ACTIONS WILL BE TAILORED TO FIT THE SITUATION.
FOR HIS PART, HE BELIEVES THAT THERE WERE PROBABLY NO ACTUAL
ILLEGAL TRANSACTIONS IN BOLIVIA. HE OFFERED HIS OWN VIEW THAT
IT IS PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR BOLIVIA TO UPSET THE
INDEMNIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS WITH GULF AND THAT IN ANY EVENT
THERE IS NO REASON FOR THIS TO EVEN BE CONTEMPLATED BY THE GOB.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT HE WOULD BRIEF PRESIDENT
BANZER ON CONTENTS OF NOTE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT SURELY
WITHIN NEXT 24 HOURS. HE GAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT HE HAD
RECEIVED ANY REPORT FROM WASHINGTON OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN
AMB. CAPRILES AND ARA/BC COUNTRY DIRECTOR ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR THE ACTION
TAKEN BY THE ACTING SECRETARY IN TELEPHONING GULF CHAIRMAN
DORSEY JUNE 2 TO ENCOURAGE GULF TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING WITH
THE GOB. THIS ACTION WAS REPORTED IN STATE 127952. WHILE
THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ARE REASSURING, HE DOES NOT
HAVE THE SAME POLITICAL SENSITIVITY AND CLOSE RAPPORT WITH
PRESIDENT BANZER THAT THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR HAS. THE
LATTER HAS TOLD ME PERSONALLY OF THE COMPLEXITY AND
DIFFICULTY OF THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION IF THERE IS
NOT A CLARIFICATION BY GULF SOON.
STEDMAN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EIND, BL, GULF OIL CORP, (GUZMAN SORIANO, ALBERTO)
To: STATE
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